



Region 1 Weekly Report | December 14, 2021

Section 1: Items for the Administrator's action, decision and/or signing over the next two weeks. None

Section 2: Items that the RA signed over the last week and/or plan on signing over the next two weeks - None

Section 3: Hot Topics

Major policy, regulatory, compliance, or enforcement activities

- **R1:** On December 8, R1 held a call with the MA Department of Environmental Protection to discuss Lead Action Level Exceedances in communities provided drinking water by the MA Water Resources Authority. Topics were lead pipe inventories, lead pipe replacements, corrosion control studies, and public education.
- **R1:** On December 8, R1 spoke to the Organization for the Assabet River (OARs) regarding their appeal of the total phosphorus limit in the Marlborough Westerly (Massachusetts) final NPDES permit. EPA and OARs reached an agreement in principle on the appeal.
- **R1:** On December 9, the final NPDES permit for Seaman Paper Company (Massachusetts) was signed.
- **R1:** R1 finalized a consent agreement with the Barnhardt Manufacturing Co. (Massachusetts) for violations of the Clean Air Act at their cotton textiles bleaching facility. In 2019, a release of sulfuric acid reached the North River, resulting in a significant fish kill. The settlement addresses the failure to design and maintain a safe facility and minimize the harm of accidental releases, and a penalty of \$305,278.

Major events, emergencies/incidents, or meetings

- **R1:** On December 6, R1 held an informational call with the Maine Wabanaki tribes to discuss the Maine 176A petition to remove part of Maine from the Ozone Transport Region. The notice of final rulemaking approving the Maine Opt-out will be routed for concurrence in January.
- **R1:** On December 6, public comment period closed for the revised draft outer continental shelf (OCS) air permit for the South Fork Windfarm. Public comments focused on a revision that removes the requirement to obtain emission offsets for construction. R1 received comments during the public comment period in support of the revised permit.
- **R1:** On December 7, R1 hosted the 2nd Annual NE Wood Smoke Summit to highlight regional efforts to reduce the largest source of fine-particle pollution, woodsmoke, and to encourage collaboration and presentations between states, tribes, and EPA R1.
- **R1:** On December 13, R1 issued the final Pollution Report documenting the completion of the 12-year, \$60M Removal Action at Elizabeth Mine in VT. Remediation included stabilizing the tailings dam, constructing a 45-acre cap, constructing a passive leachate treatment system, and the closure of the water-filled 1898 adit.
- **R1:** On Dec 13, R1 met with Vineyard Wind, LLC to discuss outer continental shelf (OCS) air permitting for future windfarm projects. Discussion focused on a permit modification to the Vineyard Wind 1 permit and permitting for the upcoming NE Wind projects (Park City and Commonwealth Windfarms) to provide additional capacity of 1,600 – 2,000 MW of electricity.

Section 4: Miscellaneous

Major concerns/challenges (e.g., an impasse with customers/partners/stakeholders)

- **R1:** On December 7, R1 and ORD met with MassDEP's LUST Corrective Action program to discuss adjustments to better address EJ concerns surrounding LUST sites in Massachusetts.
- **R1:** On Dec 14, the Air Permits Team completed its review of the CAA Title V permit review for Pittsfield, MA Generating Station. The 120 MW natural gas- and oil-fired power plant has been the subject of EJ concerns in Pittsfield.